2001, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the invention to as follows:

[DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM WITH COMMON CHANNEL FOR IMAGE AND CHARACTER DATA] IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMBINING IMAGE INFORMATION AND CHARACTER PATTERNS.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 80-82, 84, 85, and 87 to read as follows.

71. (Twice Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

supply means for supplying color image information including plural color component information and character code data transmitted through a common line, said supply means supplying the plural color component information in order;

separating means for separating the color image information and character code data supplied from said supply means;

developing means for (1) deriving the plural color component information from the color information and developing the derived information into patterns of the plural

color component information, and for (2) developing the character code data into at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data; and

combining means for combining the patterns of the plural color component information and the at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data in memory means capable of handling each color.

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73. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 71, wherein said memory means includes Y-, M-, C- and K- memories.

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74. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 71, wherein said memory means has a capacity of plural lines for each color.

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76. (Thrice Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

supply means for supplying color image information including plural color component information and character code data transmitted through a common line, said supply means supplying the plural color component information in order;

separating means for separating the color image information and character code data supplied from said supply means;

developing means for (1) deriving the plural color component information from the color information and developing the derived information into patterns of the plural color component information, and for (2) developing the character code data into at least one

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pattern corresponding to the character code data; and

combining means for combining the patterns of the plural color component information and the at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data in memory means capable of handling each color,

wherein the color image information is of multi-value color image data.

77. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 71, further comprising output means for outputting data stored in said memory means to a color printer.

80. (Twice Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a step of receiving color image information including plural color component information and character code data through a common line, the plural color component information being received in order;

a step of separating the received color image information and character code data;

a step of (1) deriving the plural color component information from the color information and developing the derived information into patterns of the plural color component information, and of (2) developing the character code data into at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data; and

a step of combining the patterns of plural color component information and the at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data in memory means capable of

handling each color.

81. (Amended) A method according to Claim 80, wherein said memory means includes Y-, M-, C- and K- memories.

82. (Amended) A method according to Claim 80, wherein said memory means has a capacity of plural lines for each color.

84. (Thrice Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a step of receiving color image information including plural color component information and character code data through a common line, the plural color component information being received in order;

a step of separating the received color image information and character code data;

a step of (1) deriving the plural color component information from the color information and developing the derived information into patterns of the plural color component information, and of (2) developing the character code data into at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data; and

a step of combining the patterns of plural color component information and the at least one pattern corresponding to the character code data in memory means capable of handling each color,

wherein the color image information is of multi-value color image data.

85. (Twice Amended) A method according to Claim 80, comprising the step of outputting data stored in the image memory means to a printer.

87. (Amended) A data processing system comprising:

input means for inputting data received from a communication line;

separating means for separating the received data into image data and into code data representing a font pattern such as a character or a symbol;

image data process means for processing the image data separated by said separating means;

code data process means for processing the code data separated by said separating means; and

output means for outputting the processed image data from said image data process means and the processed code data from said code data process means,

wherein the image data comprises color image data, and

wherein said output means comprises combination means for combining the processed code data and the processed image data on a color memory, and for outputting the combined data.